

MICHIGAN SENATE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FROM SENATOR BRUCE PATTERSON

SERVING THE 7TH DISTRICT

WHAT'S
INSIDE

- PAGE 2 -

Health Insurance Reform
Working to Eliminate the
Emerald Ash Borer

Senator Patterson's
Committee Assignments

- PAGE 3 -

Saving the Merit
Scholarships

One-on-One With
Senator Patterson

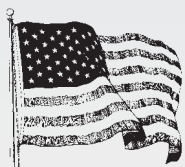
Survey Questions

- PAGE 4 -

Publications Request

Sign Up For Free
E-mail Newsletter

Contact Information

CONTACT
INFORMATION

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

TELEPHONE:
(517) 373-7350

FAX:
(517) 373-9228

E-MAIL:
senbpatterson@senate
.michigan.gov

Dear Friends:

As your State Senator, I am both privileged and honored to represent you, your family and the more than 270,000 constituents of the 7th Senate District in the Michigan State Senate. Serving your needs in the Michigan Legislature is very important to me.

The information contained in this Legislative Update newsletter will give you some additional insight and information about what has happened in Lansing since I took office January 1, 2003. As your advocate for good government in the Senate, I will continue to work to:

- enhance educational opportunities and outcomes in education;
- ensure that a quality employment environment exists in our great state; and,
- preserve our environment and our outdoor heritage for future generations!

I am always looking to improve the means of communication to and from my constituents, you the people for whom I work. Your input and perspective permit me to more fully represent our community. Your opinions and concerns motivate my actions.

Please continue to send me letters & e-mails to set forth your thoughts (also, please let us know if you would like to receive my free "In The Loop" e-mail releases); call my office to request more information on issues of personal importance or to ask for specific state publications; or, to schedule a 'day in Lansing' to visit the Capitol.

Again, thank you for extending to me the honor of serving you and yours in the Michigan State Senate. When all is said and done:

"I work for you!"

Most Sincerely,

Bruce Patterson,
State Senator, 7th District

MAKING MICHIGAN HISTORY!

Michigan history was made earlier this year! On April 3, 2003, our new Governor, Jennifer **Granholt**, signed Senate Bill 160 into Law. Now known as **Public Act 1 of 2003**, sponsored by our own State Senator, Bruce **Patterson**, became the first Bill signed into Law by our great state's first female governor!

Senator **Patterson** expressed his feelings by saying: ***"Governor Granholt made me proud, and honored, when she chose to sign my Bill as her first Public Act as governor."***

In her official statement, Governor **Granholt** declared: ***"Senator Patterson did a commendable job in crafting this legislation. This Bill is an example of both parties working together to ensure that Michigan continues to have strong ethics and good government."***



Thomas H. McTavish,
Auditor General of the State
of Michigan and
Senator Patterson look on as
Gov. Granholt signs
Public Act 1 of 2003.

Health Insurance Reform: Saving Michigan Jobs and Cutting Costs

On July 23, 2003, Governor **Granholt** signed a most significant piece of legislation into Michigan law!

Everyone is keenly aware of the fact that health care costs and health insurance premiums are on the rise. Over the last several years they have soared, making coverage less affordable to thousands. It has seemed like the sky's the limit and no one is trying to do anything about the problem.

Well, **Senator Bruce Patterson** crafted Senate Bill 460 with the intent of tackling this major issue head on! After months of careful consideration, extensive research, exhaustive committee deliberations, and skillful negotiation, our Senator **Patterson** succeeded where others had failed. He adroitly moved his Bill through both Chambers of the Michigan Legislature and onto Governor **Granholt's** desk for signature and enactment.

The result: The Governor signed the Bill, but only after publicly extolling its merit and virtues.

"This is the first step in helping Michigan's small businesses - the economic muscle of our state - ensure that they will be able to continue to offer health care to their employees," Gov. **Granholt** declared. Continuing,

Michigan's new Governor stated: *"By making health care coverage costs easier to predict and by giving small businesses more flexibility to shop around for the best coverage and premiums, we are helping to ensure that small business will continue to flourish in Michigan. Stability for employers means stable health care for employees."*

Reflecting on his accomplishment, Senator **Patterson** observed just how important this new Law is for the entrepreneurs and small business persons in communities like Northville, Plymouth, Canton and Grosse Ile. *"Stabilizing health care costs will make it easier for small business owners to plan a budget and grow their business. In turn, this will create more and better job opportunities for thousands of people across our state, and it will establish an enhanced economic environment essential to attracting more and more job providers."*

Gov. **Granholt** opined further by stating: *"This new Law helps make Michigan an even stronger incubator for small business expansion and helps make sure that Blue Cross Blue*

Shield will continue to be a strong caregiver for Michigan's people."



Working to Eliminate the Emerald Ash Borer

Overcoming the negative affects of the Emerald Ash Borer in Southeast Michigan is one of my highest priorities. This invasive Asian insect is rapidly threatening all of the ash trees in Michigan. Last year, it killed five million of the 28 million ash trees in six southeastern Michigan counties.

In order to help the state alleviate the problem created by the Emerald Ash Borer, I introduced Senate Resolution 49, which was passed unanimously by the Senate on April 23. The resolution urged the Congress

of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture to provide Michigan with assistance in fighting the Emerald Ash Borer.

My resolution worked. The federal government announced in early May that Michigan and Ohio will be receiving \$14.6 million to stop the spread of the aggressive Asian insect and eradicate it from our state. For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer, please contact my office toll free at (866) 262-7307.

Senator Patterson's Committee Assignments

Technology and Energy committee, Chair
Health Policy committee, Vice Chair
Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs committee, Vice Chair
Judiciary committee, Member



"Northville Mayor Christopher Johnson and Northville City Councilman Jerry Mittman stopped by Sen. Patterson's Lansing office to discuss legislation."

Saving the Merit Scholarships

In keeping with my commitment to enhance educational opportunities for all seeking a better education, I have insisted throughout the Budget deliberations on maintaining funding for the Michigan Merit Award Scholarship Program.

In part, my personal commitment derives from the fact that during the 1999 - 2000 legislative term I served as the Associate Speaker Pro Tempore, and therefore, was the Presiding Officer over the Michigan House of Representatives' session the night when the Bill creating this innovative program passed the body. My efforts on that momentous occasion drew acclaim from former Gov. John Engler whose brainchild the Merit Award program was.


Guarding this innovative Program from unwarranted, partisan attacks and non - meritorious assaults claiming it was a pay - off for children of rich parents, became my Mission. Because of the confusion over the initial intent of the program, I feel obliged to point out that the MERIT AWARD SCHOLARSHIP was always intended to reward MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT, not be a needs - based scholarship. And, for the critics who erroneously proclaim that only those

in need should benefit, I unequivocally declare that: *"All students who achieve desired outcomes are entitled to receive "the benefit of their bargain for studying hard, learning well, and demonstrating their achievement on an exam designed to objectively measure quantitative and qualitative outcomes."*

While some will disagree, there are more than 140,000 students and their parents who do not! They agree with me, and many of them are our neighbors and they have told me they agree.

If you would like to learn more about the scholarship program, please visit the Merit Award Preservation Plan website at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/merit>.

Parents of award winning students can support their child's achievement by obtaining a Merit Scholar bumper sticker - free of charge-and proudly displaying it on their family automobile. To order a free bumper sticker, simply contact my office by calling toll - free (866) 262 - 7307; or e-mail me at: senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov.

Proud Parent of a
Merit Scholar 



Trenton Mayor Jerry Brown and his granddaughter Lauren with Sen. Patterson at the Trenton Memorial Day parade.

One-on-One with Senator Patterson

I encourage your family to share thoughts and concerns on state legislation and issues with me during my One-on-One office hours. The conversations and opinions help me to better serve your family in the Michigan State Senate. For more information about One-on-One office hours or to schedule office hours at a location in your community, please contact my office by calling (866) 262-7307.



Patterson meeting constituents during "Office Hours"

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Do you agree with the U. S. Supreme Court's recent decision on Affirmative Action? Yes ☐ No ☐

Comments: _____

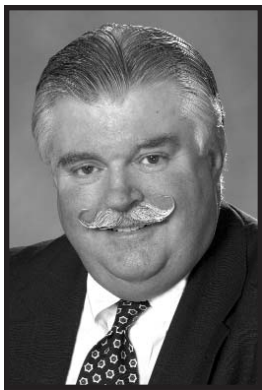
Do you agree with the 1992 U. S. Supreme Court's decision in Fort Gratiot Landfill -v- MDNR which prevents individual states from fully regulating the importation of out - of - state trash from places like Toronto, ONTARIO, Canada? Yes ☐ No ☐

Comments: _____

Would you like Sen. Patterson's staff to send you more information on either of these topics? If so, please send in this form with your name and the address to which you would like the materials to be sent.

Name: _____

Address: _____



State Senator
BRUCE PATTERSON
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

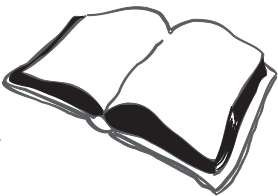
PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 1200

----- Clip & Mail -----

Publications Request

My office maintains a collection of useful publications that may be of interest to you and your family. The publications are free. They can be requested by mailing this request form or by e-mailing your request to: **senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov**.

- ☐ State of Michigan Map
- ☐ A Citizen's Guide to State Government
- ☐ Michigan Constitution
- ☐ Services for Seniors
- ☐ Consumer Protection Resource Guide
- ☐ Planning for Your Peace of Mind
- ☐ Changes and Choices: A Guide for Seniors



Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

MAIL TO: Senator Bruce Patterson, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Sign Up For Free E-mail Newsletter



In order to keep your family up to date with the actions of the Michigan Legislature, I am now issuing "In the Loop." This is a free e-mail newsletter for my constituents. If you are interested in receiving the e-mail newsletter, please e-mail your address to: **senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov**. Newsletters are also available on my website, located at **<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/>**.

CONTACT SENATOR *Bruce Patterson*

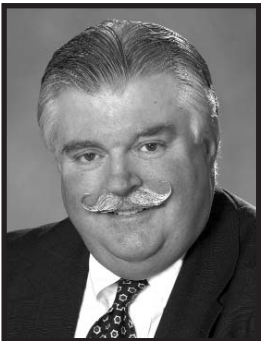
ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

PHONE:
Toll Free (866) 262-7307
(517) 373-7350

FAX:
(517) 373-9228

E-MAIL:
senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov

WEBSITE:
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson



Senator Patterson Represents:

City of Northville, Northville Twp., City of Plymouth, Plymouth Twp., Canton Twp., Van Buren Twp., Belleville, Sumpter Twp., Huron Twp., Brownstown Twp., Flat Rock, Woodhaven, Trenton, Grosse Ile Twp., Gibraltar and Rockford in Wayne County.